

Analysis of Reform Strategies for Marxist Philosophy Teaching in Higher Education Institutions

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ABSTRACT

Marxist philosophy is an important indicator of human thought in the process of modern social development, and it is also the theoretical and spiritual support of socialism with Chinese characteristics. With the development and progress of the times, Marxist philosophical theory has gradually integrated the ideas and thinking of the new era, becoming a good medicine to guide the spiritual development of college students. So, as an important political philosophy course offered by higher education institutions, how to effectively achieve the reform and development of Marxist philosophy teaching courses has become a key entry point for higher education institutions to achieve high-quality talent cultivation and implement the goal of moral education and talent development. This article mainly analyzes the curriculum connotation and characteristics of Marxist philosophy in higher education institutions, and explores the teaching reform path of Marxist philosophy in higher education institutions, hoping to provide reference opinions for promoting the improvement of talent education level in higher education institutions.

1. Introduction

Marxist philosophy is an important compulsory course component in China's higher education system. The main goal of the course is to help contemporary college students establish correct life concepts in the process of development and understand the responsibilities and missions they shoulder in the new era. Against the backdrop of accelerating economic globalization, the domestic market is gradually aligning with the international market, and foreign ideas have become a new wave, bringing tremendous impact to traditional thinking. At present, many students in higher education institutions face various problems when studying Marxist philosophy, such as a lack of enthusiasm for courses, only focusing on passing ex-

ams, mechanized memory and memorization, which also makes it difficult to achieve the effectiveness of Marxist philosophical teachings. Even many students believe that knowledge of Marxist philosophy is irrelevant, which has led to the marginalization of Marxist philosophy education. Therefore, further exploration of effective paths for the reform and development of Marxist philosophy education in universities is of great significance.

2. The Connotation and Characteristics of Marxist Philosophy in Education

2.1 The Educational Connotation of Marxist Philosophy

At present, there is still no clear consensus in the aca-

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democratic community on the educational concept of Marxist philosophy. Multiple academic schools have been competing for a long time, but there is no relatively unified understanding of the educational concept. This also means that Marxist philosophy needs to integrate new concepts and methods in different historical contexts, and the definition criteria for its educational concept connotation are relatively vague. But overall, it cannot be denied that Marxist philosophy education is a new model of transferring and integrating philosophical concepts into the concept of educating people. It is not a single concept of educating people. Specifically, the philosophical education concept of Marxism is also the experience and rational thinking summarized by Chinese higher education institutions in the long-term practice of offering this course. All the requirements and spiritual values condensed in the end cannot be described in a single language, which is also determined by different educators' subjective judgments and rational cognition of Marxist philosophy education. Moreover, the influence of philosophical education concepts on students cannot be formed in a short period of time, but requires long-term knowledge and experience accumulation in order to truly exert its philosophical educational function and ultimately form a closed loop of education.

2.2 Characteristics of the Educational Concept in Marxist Philosophy

On the one hand, the educational concept of Marxist philosophy has unique characteristics in different historical contexts, which also means that it has distinct characteristics of the times. It can be said that China's society has grown through gradual changes and evolution, and in different social backgrounds, any thing and the concept of viewing things will also migrate accordingly. As a conclusion of observing society, Marxist philosophy will inevitably change with the development of the times, so as to continuously update Marxist philosophy and more effectively guide students' philosophical education. Not only that, Marxist philosophy also promotes the spirit of advancing with the times, and the extension of its connotation always maintains an inseparable internal connection with the development of the times. It is a criterion for measuring the development of modern society and a conclusion for judging the laws of social development. It needs to be maximally combined with the real life and needs of the social masses. It can be seen that the educational concept of Marxist philosophy is not static, but rather aims to accumulate new experiences and leave a distinct mark of the times as they change.

On the other hand, the educational concept of Marxist

philosophy has significant dialectical characteristics. The term dialectics is believed to be the most common vocabulary used by many students when they come into contact with philosophy courses. Dialectical philosophy has the characteristics of self reflection and critical thinking. This reflection and criticism is not only a questioning of the external world by humans, but also a reflection and criticism of oneself in the process of human growth. From this dimension, it is evident that the critical characteristics of Marxist philosophical theory are essential, and this dialectical criticism is the most indispensable educational nature in its educational process.

3. The Important Value of Reforming Marxist Philosophy Education in Higher Education Institutions

3.1 Being able to draw students' attention to real-life needs based on social practice

At present, in the process of offering Marxist philosophy education courses in domestic higher education institutions, problems and loopholes in educational levels and concepts are not uncommon. For example, many schools confuse Marxist philosophy education with general political education, which leads to students being trapped by rigid thinking in the learning process and lacking a pair of dynamic eyes, unable to truly observe the current situation and needs of society. Over time, the enthusiasm and vitality of this subject are lost. Philosophy is an educational thinking, not simply theoretical knowledge. If only one-sided knowledge transmission is carried out, the education of philosophy deviates from its essence and ultimately forms a dogmatism. At present, philosophy education in Chinese universities is shifting towards utilitarianism, emphasizing specialized skills and knowledge-based education, and taking the cultivation of students' livelihood skills and employability as the main focus. This has also caused Marxist philosophy education to lose its own characteristics. Therefore, the educational reform of Marxism should focus more on the real needs of students and closely integrate them. At present, students' needs and social practices in society are essential in order to conform to the essence of philosophy, pay attention to real problems, and guide students to deeply understand the current social situation. Only then can students have the ability to change the social situation and solve social problems from an internal perspective. This is also an endogenous driving force for promoting comprehensive social progress and talent development.

3.2 More conducive to highlighting social and humanistic care, driving students' comprehensive development

Essentially, the teaching of Marxist philosophy does not belong to the realm of theoretical knowledge, but rather to anthropology, and the underlying humanistic spirit is unfathomable. Therefore, as philosophy educators in higher education institutions, we should also have a clear understanding that the core essence of Marxist philosophy, no matter how the times change, is to discuss a series of topics that extend from the core of human value, human existence, and the essence of human development. However, in the current teaching of Marxist philosophy in higher education institutions, the essence of humanistic education is easily overlooked. Many educators simply regard it as a scientific theory without highlighting its characteristic of exploring the origin of humanity. This educational model also deviates from the essence of human education and instead makes it a tool and carrier for promoting political ideas. Therefore, the education reform in the new era needs to pay more attention to how to demonstrate the humanistic spirit contained in Marxist philosophy education, abandon the secularism in the educational process, better integrate Marxist philosophy with the real society, and enable students to learn to observe the value of the world and life through philosophical theory. Only in this way can the humanistic care of Marxist philosophy education continue to be highlighted and drive students to think more comprehensively about problems.

3.3 More conducive to cultivating students' questioning spirit, learning to reflect through criticism

The spirit of questioning is the most important educational connotation in the development of philosophy education activities. It helps students to cultivate their reflective and critical abilities, recognize social issues and the essence of development, and better explore and investigate learning content. Furthermore, it enables students to engage in a series of reflections on philosophical issues and enhance their analytical skills from both internal and external perspectives. In fact, the spirit of criticism and reflection is highly advocated in Marxist philosophy. Only by learning to question can we avoid being rigid and dogmatic, and only by learning to question and reflect can we make progress. However, this critical education does not negate everything, nor does it blindly doubt things. It is a rational reflection based on practice, and more importantly, an introspection of the problem. In the reform of Marxist philosophy education in higher education institutions, the goal is to transform the previous education situation

where teachers were the sole transmission subject, truly highlight the status of students, cultivate students' critical and reflective spirit in the learning process, and enable them to discover and solve problems through introspection of themselves and the appearance of society.

4. The Reform and Development Path of Marxist Philosophy Education in Higher Education Institutions

4.1 Enhance the importance of education issues

Based on the various types of problems that have existed in the education of Marxist philosophy in China in the past, the most significant one is the emphasis on imparting conclusions, but neglecting the close relationship between Marxist philosophy and real social problems. Some social hot topics and concentrated issues are not introduced in the classroom, and the focus is relatively narrow. This is the culprit that has led to the gradual development of Marxist philosophy education towards dogmatism and utilitarianism. At present, there are numerous versions of textbooks on Marxist philosophy in Chinese higher education institutions, and the vast majority of classroom textbooks are based on translated versions of the original Marxist philosophy content from the Soviet Union. However, the translations of these textbooks can only intuitively reflect the connotation of Marxist philosophy at that time, but cannot demonstrate the collision between Marxist philosophy and the current economic and social situation of the times, nor do they delve into the new connotation of Marxist philosophy in the context of the changing times. From the perspective of the development of the times, focusing on the current situation and problems of society and solving these problems is the voice of the broad masses of the people. Therefore, the content learned by college students in the classroom should be based on the theory of Marxist philosophy and the innovative development and integration of the new era. How to face social problems, focus on social hotspots, quickly solve and find methods is the teaching focus of Marxist philosophy courses. This requires Marxist philosophy teachers in higher education institutions to discover the main contradictions and problems in long-term teaching practice, integrate new social cutting-edge topics and thinking into the teaching classroom, thereby increasing the correlation between Marxist philosophy teaching and the current social situation, helping students find confidence and enthusiasm for learning, and continuously extending the breadth and depth of Marxist philosophy education through the integration of teaching texts and optimization of textbook issues, thus better deepening the

correlation between Marxist philosophy text textbooks and social practice issues.

4.2 Introduce life oriented educational content in the classroom

At the symposium on the work of philosophy and social sciences, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that “we must adhere to Marxism as guidance and accelerate the construction of philosophy and social sciences with Chinese characteristics.” This also means that the integration between philosophy and social practice has become an inevitable trend for the future development of this discipline. As the backbone of the development of philosophy and social sciences in China, higher education institutions should not only teach and educate students, but also deeply understand the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping’s speech, and use philosophy to guide students’ life practice. Essentially, the teaching of Marxist philosophy is a true feedback of social reality problems. As described above, the most fundamental feature of Marxist philosophy is its critical and reflective nature. In other words, the teaching of Marxism needs to be based on life practice, allowing students to learn how to think about life problems. There are huge class contradictions in the current Chinese society, especially under the erosion of Western capitalism and other ideologies. Egoism and utilitarianism have also destroyed Deng Ying’s joyful spiritual world of the people. In this context, as higher education institutions, it is even more important to conduct in-depth discussions on Marxist philosophy for the new generation of socialist successors, and gradually explore the origin and path of human spiritual liberation. The core of Marxist philosophy is actually anthropology, which ultimately explores the survival and development of humanity. How to liberate human thought and spirit is the central issue of Marxist philosophy. However, currently in the education work of higher education institutions in China, there is an excessive focus on the laws of movement teaching in Marxist philosophy, and the essence of teaching always revolves around material changes as the core. This teaching direction and focus have clearly deviated. In response to such issues, the education of Marxist philosophy in higher education institutions should be closely linked to the content of life oriented education, guiding students to use the ideas of Marxist philosophy to face the essence of life. Through the introduction of hot topics, students can use philosophical thinking to explore a series of issues such as what freedom and survival value are, how to liberate and justice, etc. Only through such educational methods can we maximize the connection between Marxist philosophy education and the real social life of college students.

4.3 Cultivate critical thinking and reflective awareness among college students

Critical thinking and reflective consciousness are the most important driving forces and endogenous forces for promoting the development and progress of social revolution. Raising and solving problems is a realistic topic that social development should face in every period. The connotation and tone of Marxist philosophy revolve around critical materialist thinking, which also means that contemporary college students should not only focus on internal self-criticism in their development process, but also learn to examine external social conditions, continuously improve their lives through innovation, and establish a critical worldview. Marxist philosophy is not static, but evolves with the passage and development of the times. Only by incorporating innovative construction ideas can society avoid being trapped in old theories and constantly move forward and develop through criticism. Therefore, as a higher education institution, in the process of teaching Marxist philosophy, we should not gradually turn this subject into dogmatism. Instead, we should learn to liberate students’ minds in teaching, help them establish a consciousness of reflection and criticism, and liberate their cognition and views on society and things through more active thinking logic. Only in this way can students generate creativity through continuous reflection, gradually dare to face problems, and establish sound values.

For example, a course teaching team from a certain university in China has created high-quality MOOC videos on philosophy and social sciences, which has driven the digital transformation and development of philosophy and social science teaching. They have also launched the “Lingyun Plan” through online teaching. In the teaching process, they tell social stories well in online classrooms and explore new elements of ideological and political education as the theme. In this course, representative theme characters about “Advancing into the New Era” have been selected, leading students to use micro course videos as a starting point to understand the current social situation, industry contradictions, and so on, so that students can learn to reflect and learn from them.

5. Conclusion

In summary, Marxist philosophy education is an important component of the higher education system, and it is also an important discipline that helps college students establish critical thinking, improve their personality, and construct correct values. Therefore, in the process of reforming and innovating Marxist philosophy education in higher education institutions, it is necessary to continu-

ously enhance the attention to existing educational issues, strengthen the correlation between Marxist philosophy education content and social practice life, help students establish critical thinking and reflective consciousness, and promote their innovative development through multiple measures, in order to better play the educational function of Marxist philosophy courses.

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